WENDELL POST

Nov./Dec. '91 Vol. XIV #4 50¢ please

Presenting ... New coffeehouse logo

BIG DUMP FIRE REQUIRES BIG RESPONSE

As the smoke settles from the fire at the D. & B. Demolition Landfill, we can take real pride in the response of Wendell citizens to the emergency. Fire Chief Everett Ricketts led the team of volunteers who first responded to the fire on Tuesday, November 12th. When the fire re-kindled later in the week, Chief Ricketts along with Lieutenants Ed Farmer and Harry Williston worked long day and night shifts battling the blaze. They were assisted by Sarah Deroode, Gerta Swerdowski, Carolyn Hulslander, Bob Schulman, Joe Diemand, Cain Blackbird, Charles Bado, Anne Diemand, Peter Diemand, and Pete Rooney. When the "official" presence of the Wendell Fire Department ended late Saturday, November 16th, the presence of Wendell citizens did not. Ed Farmer continued to fight the blaze as part of the team assembled by Dean Bennett. Ted Lewis and Dan Keller were on the scene every day assisting with pumps, hoses, and generators.

Dean Bennett cooperated at all stages with town officials in dealing with the emergency. He put in extremely long hours and exhibited unflagging determination and personal courage in his effort to establish control of the situation. His employees, including the prisoners from the Warwick State Prison, also deserve our gratitude.

The conditions in which the firefighters worked--mud, noxious fumes, rain and wind, darkness--were extraordinarily difficult ones. One volunteer, when asked on the tenth day of the fire "Why are you doing this?" replied, "Because I live here." While questions about the fire may linger longer than the smoke, the courage and determination of all those who responded to the emergency shine for us all.

Margo Culley

COMMUNITY VISION OF THE FUTURE RECIEVES AWARD

The Town of Wendell and Conway Design Associates received the Northeast Chapter of the American Planning Association's 1991 Outstanding Planning Award for its comprehensive planning project, Community Vision of the Future.

In presenting the award, Amherst Town Planner Bob Mitchell made particular note of the raffle designed to encourage the return of the Places of the Heart surveys, the delivery of the surveys on the snowiest night of the year, the diverse range of responses to the survey and the children's visions for the Town Common.

Results from the Places of the Heart survey, a four-page questionnaire which asked residents to identify landmarks, frequently visited or memorable places, aspects of town that represent "home," qualities and feelings that describe the community and preceived threats to or opportunities for Wendell, and the Visions Workshop, designed to actively involve Wendell residents in describing -- both in words and sketches -- their hopes and visions for the future of the Town, were analyzed by Conway Design Associates (CDA) and projected in the Community Vision of the Future, a document designed to guide future development in such a way as to preserve Wendell's unique rural character.

The Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse continues to present diverse musical happenings each month. So far this year, performers have been Joel Zoss with Special Forces, Justina and Joyce/Joe Belmont and Jim Henry, and Happy Traum. Each Coffeehouse is special, yet the "feel" of the evening continues to be familiar -- informal, open to families, warm and social.

The Coffeehouse offered, for the first time during its November show, T-shirts and mugs for sale, to benefit the continuing operations of the Coffeehouse and the Town Hall building fund. The new "Wendell's Original Full Moon Coffeehouse" logo, designed by Mary Gilman and Linda James, stands out beautifully on these colorful shirts and mugs. T-shirts are $8.00 and mugs are $5.00, just in time for holiday presents, as well as to offer your support for one of Wendell's trademark events. Call any member of the committee to get yours now, or come to the December 21st show where they will be available. Our committee consists of Katie and Michael Bloomfield, Greg Stone, Andrew Kinsey, Kathy and Myron Becker, Ed Boland and Laurie and Matt Stamell. Are you interested in joining us on the committee?

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WENDELL POST

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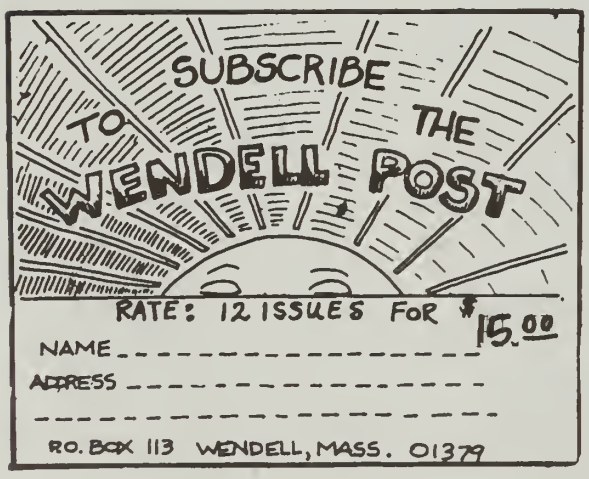

LETTERS

USURY INTEREST RATES
OVERDUE REALESTATE TAXES

Currently the State of Massachusetts has set a 14% interest rate as what must be charged at the Town level for overdue taxes. State law doesn't allow any discounting.

When homeowners are late in paying their taxes, they are charged 14% interest and the Town borrows that money at 7%. The difference between 7% and 14% ($7/$100) goes into our general fund.

I suggest that keeping any amount of money above the actual cost of borrowing is usury. I have proposed that the Town "rebate" the difference to the homeowners having to pay the 14%. For example if a homeowner owes $1600 in overdue taxes, the 14% interest over a period of one year amounts to $224. If we use the 7% cost for the Town to borrow and add 1% for the cost of additional paperwork, the total cost to the Town is 8% which leaves 6% or $96 extra which can be applied to the principal of the debt or if the debt is paid, rebated or if the homeowner desires applied to a fund to help others in need.

The Federal and state government have their own time frame on helping its citizens. Locally we have a responsibility to reach out to each other to offer what we can.

If a homeowner has fallen on hard times as millions have across this Nation during this recession, why do we place an added burden on them? Of course all our costs should be covered but why keep the extra from those in the position to least able to afford it?

Arguments against such an approach have been offered which I present with my counter arguments.

1-Cumbersome and time consuming

Response-we already have a file (possibly on computer) on every homeowner who owes taxes. We list the principal and interest owed and paid to date. I can't imagine that it would take more than one hour per year per homeowner to do the subsequent calculations and transfer of funds as I have previously described. One percent on a $1600 bill is $16 which should adequately cover the real costs per homeowner on average.

2-The State general laws prohibit discounts to interest on taxes due.

Response- I have proposed a program where the total 14% is collected (which places the dollars in the general fund) and redistributed, therefore avoiding "discounts". It may not even be considered a rebate.

3-The Town has large expenses relating to applying liens and house takings. We need the extra funds to cover these expenses.

Response-The cost for applying liens and taking houses are covered at the time of sale. Having a program such as I propose will not eliminate but will help contribute to lowering the necessity of applying liens and house takings.

4-Residents will use the taxes owed as a bank loan and not take this debt seriously.

Response-While there may be a small number of those who may budget in this fashion, they are in the minority. The recession and subsequent hardship is a reality we can see all around us. I for one am not prepared to live in a Town with neighbors I couldn't trust. I'm not willing to act out of this fear. We must act to help those who are in need. Economic hardship can hit any one of us. There are no guarantees.

5-There are other areas more important to address such as the State paying a larger amount for the State Forest.

Response agree, this is far from a total solution to our financial burdens. It is however part of the solution, and one we have control over. I want my representatives on the selectboard to respond on all fronts. We as neighbors must respond as well.

6-We should ask the State to lower the rate.

Response-I agree we should, but not instead of our own action which would be fairer, more effective, and quicker.

I present the above so all residents may consider and discuss this important subject. I ask that each of us make our opinions known to each other and the Selectboard.

Respectfully submitted
Floyd Borakove

To the Editor:

This letter is about changing times, places, and people. I am now 14 years old, but I have spent these 14 years considering Wendell to be my "hometown". When I was 11 years old I went to live with my aunt and uncle in Leicester, MA, and I spent 6th grade there. During this time my mother was in Kenya studying anthropology. It was then that I first lived away from Wendell. During my time in Leicester, I missed Wendell incredibly. I have always felt that this town was where I truly belonged. Time went on, and in May, 1989, my mother returned from Kenya. She and I went back to our home on Gate Lane, tucked back into the woods on the New Salem end of town. The first time we went back up the rutt-filled and rock-encumbered road, I felt an intense peace in my heart. I immediately became once again intoxicated with the country sights, sounds, and smells. This house had some bad memories for us, but the overall goodness made the memories meaningless. We spent that summer enjoying our home. As it came to be August, the question came of school for that Fall. I decided, after much pondering and many headaches, that I wanted to do my Junior High studies in the Amherst school system. So, we rented the

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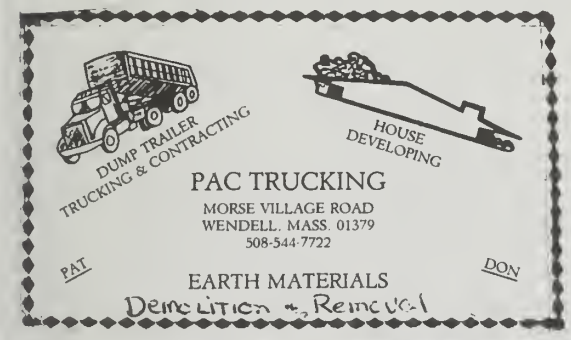
house out to two people who we knew would take care of our beloved home, which my mother had built with her own two hands, and off we went to Pelham. I began my schooling in AMherst, but again, I missed my "true" home. We found a more convenient house in North Amherst, at Cushman Village. We spent Halloween 1989 in Cushman. We had a rommate with whom to share the cost of living, but that didn't work out. In May 1990 we were back to the woods. We spent six months "house sitting" on Locks Hill Road (I think). This house was closer to "town" than our woodsy home on Gate Lane, and we had what some call modern amentities. In a few months time we were back home once again. Amenities and accessability were wonderful factors, but nothing could compare to the first place I had truly called home. I spent that school year, eighth grade, 1990-91, at Mahar Regional School. I was not happy at that school, but I was elated to be in Wendell once again. During the summer of 1991, my mother and I put our heads together, and decided to leave once again. This time we came to Kenya, so that she could continue her studies about culture. I plan to return to the States in 1992, most likely June. You may wonder why I'm writing all this. The point is, that wherever I am, whatever I'm doing, whoever I'm with, I always have and I always will consider Wendell my home. My message to all Wendell citizens is to enjoy it while you have it. Even if people begin to tire of certain aspects or small town life, remember, there are far too many good things to let the bad ones get you down. And the next time you're watching a gorgeous country sunset, or admiring the turning leaves, remember it well because someday you may not have these things to remind you that home is where the heart is. Perhaps I'm just partial as most small town kids are to their country town, but is that a bad thing? Sure doesn't feel bad to me. As I said in opening, time goes on, kids become teenagers, teenagers become adults, people go on to new horizons. But one thing remains the same: A person's hometown is always home.

Iris Evernow
Box 55517
Nairobi, Kenya



WANTED:
antiques
one item or entire houselots
Orange Trading
57 South Main, Orange
508-544-6683

Nina's Corna: What's Afoot?

Usually a week or two before Wendell Post deadline, a member of the staff will call and ask if I'll do an assigned story. I'd been thinking about Magic Johnson, the "non-recession", the closing of Rowe nuke, the leaky school roof and the new, yet problematic fire house roof, Recontek, getting my rusty car inspected, Anita Hill, teaching at G.C.C. ... But I was asked instead to write about Wendell's responsibility in the move to enhance 911 emergency response service to our town. Dry enough, a business matter! What can come from this?

I'd read about such progress in neighboring towns and had considered the inherent wisdom in the move despite my infatuation with a satiric song by rappers, Public Enemy (P E)

"911 is jokin your town
late 911 wears the late crown"

Perhaps you realize, P E writes political lyrics from the ghetto. I needed to speak to someone else to discover what's afoot.

What I learned is fairly common sense. To ensure the fastest response, all town roads need to be uniformly named and houses assigned numbers. Fire, police, town and post office maps need to be coordinated. The selectboard is in the process of appointing a committee to research the process. It will be comprised of one planning board member, one police and fire and two citizens with postal advisory. They will communicate with Erving and New Salem members who have already accomplished this task and have offered advice, and they will implement the porcess. Houses will be assigned a higher number the further away they are from the center of town.

Uniformity of street names is similar in theory to synchronicity of time pieces. Yet there's the added bonus of safety and communication.

I've always been amused by the historical aura and humor imparted by the variety of names heard for the same road, a road I may call by yet an even third appellation, depending upon who lives there, what year I came to town or what town meeting I attended. In the horse and buggy days there was more enforced, leisure travel time spent chewing cud and ruminating on all kinds of important matters like road names. Names depended upon which town you were leaving or what town you called your home. If you were leaving Millers and directing yourself towards Wendell Center, the road was Wendell Road because it took you there. We in Wendell call that same road, Montague Road, even though it takes you to Millers which has its own name separating it from its sister villages of the greater town of Montague. But historically, and even today, the road does eventually lead to Montague.

At emergency dispatch centers, phone operators ask for clear names, numbers and directions from the caller. "Well...Quick! Come to Farley Rd...or no! Is it Mormon Hollow? Well, it's the third house on the right after the dangerous curve where the guard rails".

It makes sense. Unlike in years past, there are too many townspeople to know all names and house locations. Town members can assist and remain informed with this process. Any change in road names will occur at town meeting. But this time I think it will be a more serious change. I can remember one town meeting where a road name was changed after much interesting and historical commentary and yet despite the vote and uniformity on the records, people persisted in calling that road by their favorite or familiar name.

Please contact selectboard to advise or be appointed to the committee.

Nina Keller

Public Service Reminder

Postmaster, Charles O'Dowd, reminds us of 6 ways to insure that our cards and packages get to loved ones quickly during this holiday season:

ADDRESS CLEARLY printing helps both Automation and hand-sorting
USE ZIP+4 in both sending and return addresses
MAIL EARLY we expect our peak load to be on December 16th
OVERNIGHT SERVICE use Express Mail $9.95 up to 1 pound
2-DAY SERVICE use Priority Mail $2.90 up to 2 pounds
RETURN ADDRESS included inside parcels

May happiness brighten your holidays and remain with you throughout the new year.

Charles O'Dowd, Postmaster
Candace Hebert, Postmaster Relief

?

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Trees Cut to Length
Brush
Stone Wall Clearing
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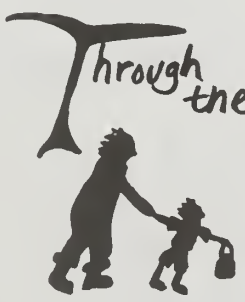
Through the Woods Childcare....
DAY, OVERNIGHTS, VACATION
SUSAN DUNLAVY
544-3758

HOME HEALTH

LEAD POISONING GUIDELINES REVISED

The Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning announced that 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood can cause permanent brain damage, reduce intelligence, impair perception, speech, and hearing, and cause learning disabilities as well as hindering growth. The number of children affected due to the revised guidelines has jumped from 200,000 to 3 million (1 out of 6) under the age of 6 nationwide.
"primary prevention effort" are now being emphasized, that is eliminating the lead hazards before children are poisoned.

A 1979 study showed that modestly elevated lead levels in children may not show up overtly but can drop a child's IQ by four points. In a population group such a decrease in IQ would increase the number of special needs children for a community. In 1980 a study showed that while lost intelligence was a symptom of lead poisoning, so was shortened attention spans, poorer hearing and reduced reading and learning ability.

Lead paint was banned completely in 1978. Homes built before 1980 have a 75% chance of containing lead paint. **LEAD POISONING IS ENTIRELY PREVENTABLE.** The new levels are too low for medical professionals to suggest chelation therapy, therefore proper nutrition and a lead free environment is critical. If complete deleading is not possible parents must wet vacuum, wash toys, and eliminate play in contaminated soil.

Housing/lead paint

Massachusetts law prohibits an increase in rent charged due to deleading.

A tenant can withhold rent if a landlord refuses to delead.

A landlord can't make a family with a child under 6 move or refuse to rent if the house contains lead paint.

An owner of a dwelling unit or residential premises must remove dangerous levels of lead where 1-A child under 6 resides there.
2-A child under 6 spends on average more than 10 hours a week in the premises for a period of at least one month. 3-A person of any age with a blood lead elevation who has demonstrated pica or whose cognitive development is delayed or retarded "resides or will reside there".

The above items are short responses to common questions. Before taking action I recommend contacting the appropriate agency for clarifications of the law.

My hope is that this article motivates parents to test every at risk crawling or toddling child for lead at least once. Wendell has a high percentage of older housing stock, let's safeguard our children and our future.

Floyd Borakove

Herbs for Health

HERBS FOR WINTER HEALTH CARE

The first early snow covers the field and calls me in as a reminder to finish garden chores, final harvesting, and stocking up on wood, food and the herbs and spices we use for winter's chills and ills. I would like to share some of the ways and recipes that have worked successfully for many folks in preventing and treating winter's health woes.

Some of the most profound wisdom is often of the utmost simplicity. and so it is with ways of maintaining good health and well-being during the cold season. Here are a few reminders;

I. Enjoy the seasonal autumn harvest. The vitamins and minerals necessary for a healthy system can be found in the winter squashes, cold weather crops (kale, broccoli, etc.) and root vegies as well as in the foods such as rosehips, sumac berries, dandelion and chickweed greens and sea vegies (seaweeds). Eat warm; think soups and stews, steamed greens and hot grains. Stoke your personal inner stove to keep you running warm!

II. Dress warmly! giving special attention to the hands, feet, top of head, nape of the neck and kidneys. These are the areas of the body where heat leaves quite rapidly. Hats and scarves, mittens and wool socks, longjohns and layers- sound familiar? Keeping your kidney area warm is very important in preventing chills and protecting your inner chi or fire. In Japan, folks use a long, soft woolen fabric and wrap it snugly around the belly and lower back area. this is especially helpful for those who experience aching and chilliness in that area or those who have kidney or bladder problems.

III. Exercise outside as well as in. Keeping our circulation moving, heart pumping strong, body limber and toned, and breath deep helps us to adapt to the winter weather and ward off colds and such. Also, being outdoors hiking, or skating, sledding or skiing, star gazing or making angels in the snow brings us close to the beauty and magic of this season!

IV. Hot and cold showers- Used for centuries to stimulate circulation and digestion and building chi-energy. this water therapy truly is not tortuous as it seems! It's best to begin in autumn to tone for winter, but anytime is good. Begin with a regular warm to hot shower. get good and warm. Turn the water to cold (as cold as you can) and stay under as long as possible-at least 20-30 seconds, making sure to cover all parts of your body! Thus is a wonderful, invigorating experience, especially those who complain of cold hands and feet. A great way to start any day!

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V. Herbal teas and syrups to help prevent and remedy some of the possible winter complaints;
*Hot ginger lemonade- my favorite winter brew. Add 1/2 cup chopped ginger to a quart of water. Simmer 15-20 minutes in covered non-aluminum pot. Strain. (dry ginger pieces for reuse). Add the juice of a lemon and honey to taste. Delicious and warming! Ginger is good for colds, flu, chills, congestion, feeling stressed, some migraines, as a digestive aid, for menstrual cramping and late periods, nausea and motion sickness and morning sickness for those women without a history of miscarriage. **Precautions-ginger should not be used with a high fever, ulcers, or heavy bleeding.**
*If you feel a cold coming on try the following:
a. Drink the above tea freely.
b. Take a hot ginger foot bath. Grate or chop fresh ginger or use dried ginger powder. Begin with 1-2 tablespoons of ginger added to a foot bucket or pan of hot water. Soak your feet for a while- then dry off, put on a pair of wool socks, hop into bed with lots of covers and sleep. You will cook your cold away, sweating through the night. Wake up refreshed and clear. Be gentle with yourself the next day and keep warm!
c. Take Echinacea extract-half your body weight in drops, every 2-3 hours, more often if a cold has settled in.
d. Eat lightly, warm and nourishing foods.
e. Rest deeply...let go of all the have-to's and relax!

*For a cough accompanying a winter cold this cough syrup is a sure winner!

Cough Syrup

Blend 2 parts mullein
2 parts coltsfoot
1 part thyme
1 part wild cherry bark
1/4 part licorice root-optional

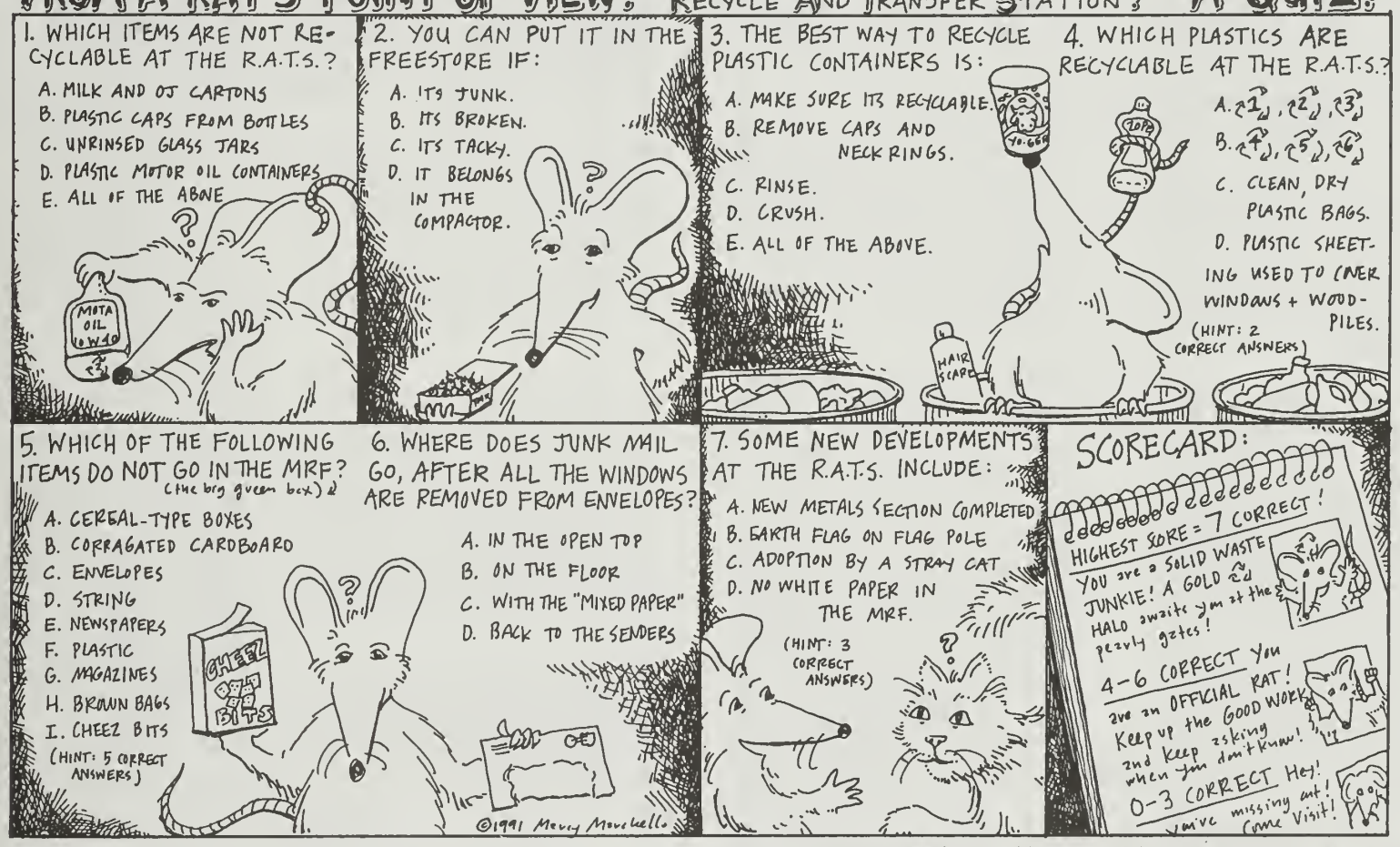
Place 1/2 cup of this blend in a pot with 1 quart water. Simmer 30 minutes. Strain. Then over a very low flame reduce liquid by half. Add honey to taste. Children take 1 tablespoon every 2 hours. Adults 2-3 tablespoons.

Sore throat balls-The herbal way of soothing dry, irritated or sore throats.

Stir together.
1/4 cup slippery elm bark
1 tablespoon powdered licorice root
2 teaspoons honey
juice of 1/2 lemon
enough water of more slippery elm to make a handle-able dough
pinch off small pieces and shape into small balls or discs (dime size). Let air dry. You can add 1/2-1 teaspoon of Echinacea, goldenseal, sage or ginger powder for more potent lozenges,or add carob for taste. Take as needed.

These are suggestions to help you help yourself through the minor discomforts of winter colds and flues. When you feel a chill, keep your "cool" by keeping warm with a tea, footbath, bedrest and thoughts of warmer seasons to come! If you should experience high fever, long term cough or sore throat, by all means call your health care provider. A healthy winter to you all!

Kate Gilday



ANSWERS: 1. E. 2. C. 3. E. 4. A AND C. 5. A, C, D, F, I. 6. C. 7. A, C, AND D. FOR THE PURPOSE OF SCORING THIS QUIZ, PLEASE CONSIDER AN ANSWER "WRONG" IF IT IS NOT COMPLETELY CORRECT. THANKS!

W.R.A.T.S.

With cooling of November come the moments to remember. A warm appreciation to those who have donated perennials to the W.R.A.T.S.. Special thanks to Kate Gilday for the collection of herbs and flowers planted in the birch tree circle by the open top. Special thanks to Tim & Marcia Fortune for the variety of perennial shrubs now along either side of the gate, and the small ornamentals in the front bed. Special thanks to Ken Wing for his hearty Forsythia and Nancy Spittle for the Johnny Jump-Ups. And Ida brought by some Money Plant seeds, still to be planted next Spring.

Tony Thomas put the mica back in our stove door - a fine repair - and none to soon given the cold weather we've had a glimpse of.

Ken Wing once again volunteered his help hauling our mixed paper down to the Orange Recycling Center, where it is weighed and baled before going to the Erving Paper Mill.

Laura Botkin just finished a stretch of time taking our plastic bags to Shop & Save.

Phyllis Lawrence picks up returnable bottles for the pre-school funds.

Robin Pierce has helped us with the can smasher.

Special thanks to Eileen Sauvageau & Steven Broll for bringing our plastics to Greenfield all last year. Since we've changed our plastic connection this past summer we no longer need their faithful and dependable help.

Many hands and unseen efforts contribute to the flourishing of the W.R.A.T.S. And we're growing too. Our newest delight is a fluffy white cat who has adopted us. She appears faithfully to greet us every Tuesday and Saturday. We call her "Miss Star". Claudia Pommer has been donating cat food. Our "Star" seems to be happy, quite friendly and hearty enough so far, though we can't help but wonder if she does have a home somewhere. Never the less we are relishing her presence, and her fan club at the W.R.A.T.S. continues to grow.

Carlen Adams Rigrod

Burkett Builders
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Dear Wendell Post,

When Gregg and Kerry visited us with Forrest and Chrystina Cleveland this August, they brought along a copy of the Summer Wendell Post. It was wonderful to hear of all that is going on back home in Wendell. It made us realize how much we are rooted in Wendell and in all our friends there. Good, too, to be able to share with family and neighbors the New Zealand we have grown to love these past ten months.

We have been living in Christchurch since February. We have a nice contemporary house right on the edge of the University of Canterbury campus where Don has been lecturing and giving seminars on "Accounting and Sustainability". Kitara walks or rides her bike the two blocks to Ilam School where she is in "standard two", equivalent to third grade. Janee works as a holistic nurse at a neighborhood clinic and networks with the well developed holistic health community here in Christchurch.

Christchurch is a lively and spacious city full of beautiful parks and gardens and well-kept homes. As I write this letter (mid-October), spring is bursting out with blossoming trees and bushes all over town. From my office window I look west to the magnificent snow-covered Southern Alps seeming even closer in the clear air and bright sun than their 50 mile distance (1 hour drive).

To the east are the Port Hills (we would call them mountains in Massachusetts), the remnants of an ancient and gigantic volcanic crater that now forms the Lyttleton harbor, sea port for the South Island. Ocean beaches, still too cold for swimming, but already buzzing with surfers and kaiakers, are a short drive away. The rest of the Christchurch environs is the expansive Canterbury plains, well kept and productive farm and pasture lands crisscrossed by huge braided rivers flowing out of the mountains which run north to south along the entire length of the South Island.

Christchurch is a friendly and open city of 300,000 with a distinct British flavor in layout and architecture, but definitely Kiwi (New Zealand) in tastes and attitudes. It's a very cosmopolitan town (seems too small and easy to get around in to call it a city) and you can find most anything you need or want here in terms of culture, technology, gadget or fad. Folks here are very tuned in to what is going on in the rest of the world; it's less provincial and insular than the USA in that regard. This is especially true at the University.

Our most overwhelming impression of New Zealand is how rugged, rich and varied is its natural beauty, followed quickly by how empty the land is. The total population is a bit over 3 million (less than greater Boston) in a land area greater than California. Most Kiwis live in the North Island; over half live in and around Auckland, which is a big city. Only 800,000 live on the larger South Island. If you took the population of Springfield and spread it out over all of New England, you have an idea of the population density of the South Island. Yet that is not due to harsh living conditions -- the climate is much milder than Massachusetts, with ample sun shine, enough rain. Things grow very well here.

Folks here call the South Island "the mainland" and consider to be far more beautiful than the North Island which, according to Maori legend was originally a large fish pulled up from the bottom of the sea.) But Kiwis north and south are united on how New Zealand (which they humbly call "godzone") ranks relative to the rest of the world. And one dare not confuse "godzone" with that lesser known and more primative island 1000 miles to the west (Australia).

I haven't included sheep in the population figures, but with 70,000,000 of them (especially now at the spring lambing season), there is a a constant reminder of the economic base of this nation wherever you go. Frisky little lambs are as sure a symbol of spring as daffodils here.

About 80% of New Zealanders are of European (Pakeha) ancestry, mostly British and Scots. There is a large Maori (original New Zealander or Aoteoroan) population, and the Maori influence is pervasive in the culture, language (NZ is officially bilingual), and especially in the names of lakes, mountains, rivers, birds and trees. The Maori are a tribal people with a rich oral tradition; each Maori named feature has a legend to go with it. But the Maori history is also a bit like a combination of Native American and Black experience in the US. Cheated out of most of their land and nearly driven to extinction by Europeans following Cook's "discovery" of New Zealand in 1769, the Maori have shrugged off oppression and cultural assimilation, and are reasserting their rights and their rich cultural heritage. They are still disadvantaged and oppressed relative to the Pakeha Kiwi.

We have had wonderful opportunities to travel extensively throughout the South Island, as well as a few weeks on the North Island. All that you have heard about the rugged beauty and spectacular scenery are true!

New Zealand seems both vast and small. Small, because anywhere you want to go on the island is within a one day drive. Vast when you realize only a tiny portion of the land is accessible road. When you look at a map or fly over the Southern Alps and can see only rugged snow-capped peaks and beautiful isolated valleys and wild rivers, or when you walk through undeveloped wilderness for seven days on one of the several "treks" that open the wilderness to the adventurous, then you experience how vast (and empty) this land is.

Before we left, Myron Becker reminded me that New Zealand is world renowned for its trout fishing. And Myron, you are right! I have never seen such an abundance of gorgeous, crystal clear trout streams, rivers, lakes. Trouble is, those trout (which they tell me average 2 kilos and can top 10 kilos) can spot an inept Yank through that crystal clear water, and become most uncooperative. I keep trying.

The Kiwi's greatest passion is rugby. Perhaps you have heard of the Rugby World Cup now going on in the UK. New Zealand's All Blacks, reigning world champs, are favored to win again. It was very interesting watching the All Blacks play the USA Eagles, and see the USA in the position of sympathetic underdog. (The All Blacks won that one 44 - 6, and it was regarded as a moral victory for the USA!) Watch a rugby game, and you will get an accurate picture of the Kiwi male image.)

Until about 5 years ago, New Zealanders had almost no unemployment, universal free medical care and accident insurance, and guarantied complete educational support through the University and graduate levels (if qualified) for all.

Sadly all that is changing as Kiwis struggle to cope with the same kinds of economic woes that have gripped Massachusetts. New Zealand's economy is based in commodities: wool, meat products, lumber etc., and gets clobbered in the fickle world markets which tend to exploit third world and other agriculturally based economies. A reactionary, conservative government has reacted to these changes by cutting back on social support and instituting "user pays" schemes that undermine the previously civilized and egalitarian health care and educational systems, reaccentuating economic inequalities. Crime and violence are increasing. It is sad to see this struggle.

Yet I feel New Zealand, with its natural wealth, energetic and resourceful people, and small population, has a unique opportunity to find new and creative ways of living on this planet, in harmony with the biosphere and peacefully cooperating in multi-cultural richness. There is already a highly developed environmental sensitivity here, and we have long admired their courageous "nuclear free policy", banning nuclear weapon carrying and nuclear powered vessels from their territorial waters. This "wee" nation has a lot to teach the rest of the world!

We will be sad to leave this beautiful and friendly land of natural abundance. But there is joy and excitement in our hearts at the prospect of returning to our home, to Wendell and all our family and friends there. If we have sounded overly enthusiastic about New Zealand, you should hear us talk to our friends here about Wendell! Wendell still defines for us the true potential spirit and creativity of community in action. We tell people of the Wendell RATS, of the Full Moon Coffee House, Old Home Day, The Wendell Post, and simple neighborhood pot lucks or saunas, and can see in their eyes that community is a critical ingredient to quality living. We really appreciate you, WENDELL!!!

We have an exciting journey home, with stops in Australia, Indonesia (Bali), Thailand, Hong Kong, and Germany before we hop that last flight across the Atlantic and return to our home. We will be in Wendell for Christmas. There is no other place we would rather be.

Love from the Stones

Don, Janee, and Kitara.

LITERACY ACTION

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WOMYN'S SOLSTICE CELEBRATION AND DANCE

ON FRIDAY, DEC. 20TH
AT THE BRATTLEBORO SCHOOL OF DANCE
17 ELLIOT ST. 7:30-11:00 P.M

$6-$12 donation.. but no womyn will be turned away for lack of funds. This event will benefit the Pilgrim Warrior Training of Cycle 21

for further info: 387-4626 OR 254-7634

POSTING PLACE

Going southward for the holidays? We would like to ride and share expenses with someone going to or thru southern Connecticut. Monday December 23rd. Call Jonathan or Susan @ 544-3758.

LAND TRANSFERS

8/16/91 Emma Cappaluzzo to Karen Traub & Frank Citino. 2.1 acres and building.

9/11/91 Patricia A. Miller to Jonathan Dorr. 8.312 acres and building. Gage Lane.

FIRE LOG

10/30/91 Brush fire New Salem Rd. Caused by downed electrical wires.

11/9/91 Brush fire along railroad tracks.

11/11/91 Standby for auto accident on Montague Rd.

Thank you

To everyone who contributed and took time to bake for the Wendell Fire Dept. to help with our ongoing fundrasing effort. The money is being used to obtain S.C.B.A.s (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus).
On behalf of the Wendell Fire Department my heartfelt gratitude goes to all who participated.

Everett Ricketts

Join us for low impact exercise classes on Mon. & Wed. mornings 9:30 - 10:30 am. At the Meeting House. The music is on and the pounds come off. $1 - $2 donation.

Lilybean Needs A Home!

Handsome, intelligent loving Large yellow cat in need of a secure loving home. He came to us as a stray this summer and won his way into our hearts, but circumstances do not allow us to keep him any longer. He's the kind of guy who'll make a loyal friend and occasional walking partner. He seems to enjoy vegetarian cooking. We'll help pay for his nurturing! Please call 544-8457 if you have a home for him. Thanks.

Rosie Heidkamp

Support WENDELL FIRE DEPT

T-shirts - $10.00

- Available at Wendell Center and Depot Stores

Beginners - Advanced crochet class. Bell and Wreath door hangers and Hats to start with at the Meeting House in Wendell. Mon. and Wed. 7 - 9 pm. $5 and Materials.

On Sunday mornings at 9 am we gather together at the Wendell Meeting House for a Sunday Spiritual Circle.
We sing songs share, tell stories and celebrate ourselves.
Everyone welcome. Donation $1
Join us and begin your work with song!

FALL & WINTER CLASSES AT THE HERB FIELD

To register call Kate at 544-2121

Family Health Series I Wed. 7-9 PM

12/4 Herbs for children
12/11 The Immune System
12/18 Herbal First Aid

Pine Needle Basketry Dec. 10 7-9PM

Family Health Series II Wed. 7-9PM

1/8 The Nervous system-Supporting and relaxing
1/15 Headaches-how to prevent and treat with herbs
1/29 Six steps of healing-How to know what therapy to use when

Winter Herbal Apprenticeship begins Jan. 13th-Mondays 9:30-2:30 for 8 weeks.

Aikido

Ongoing Aikido classes every Monday night @ Swift River School.
6 - 7:30. Beginners welcome. Call 544-2226.

The Meeting House
"The place to meet"
Schedule of Events

Sun.
- Spiritual Circle $1 9-10 am
- Art on the Common $2 10-12
- Family fun
- Church 5-6 pm

Mon.
- Low impact exercise $1-2 -9:30-10:30
- Crochet class(All levels) $5 -yarn included 10:30-12:30
- Hatha Yoga 6:30-8:30 pm
- Belly Dance $5 8:30-10 pm

Tue.
- Fimo clay class 5 to 8 yrs. -$5 & material 3-5 pm

Wed.
- Low Impact exercise(see Mon.)
- Art on the Common -For kids & parents - arts &sports $6 1-4 pm
- Crochet class all levels -$5 7-9 pm

Thur.
- Fimo Clay class 9-12 yrs. -$5 3-5 pm
- Belly Dance on going $5 -7-9 pm

Fri.
- Fri. Morning Fimo adults -$5 9-11 am
- African Dance $7 6:30-8 pm

Sat.
- Private Art Lesson 10-1 am

The Meeting House is available to rent on a weekly or monthly basis.
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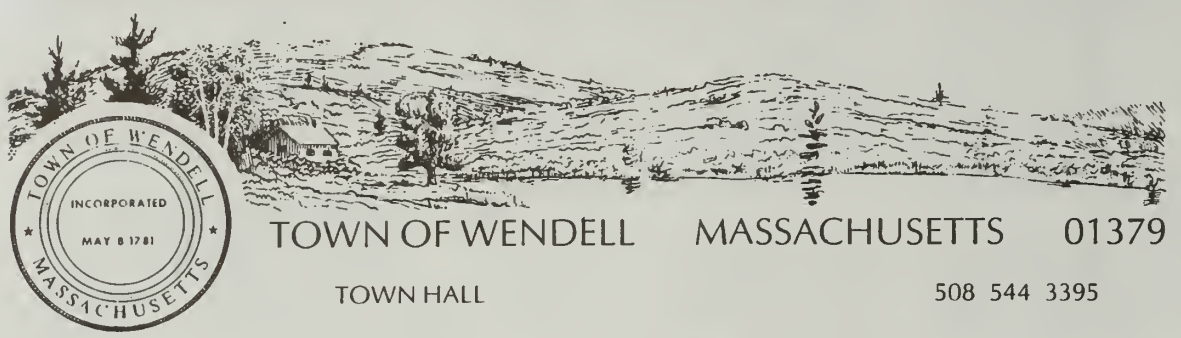

TOWN OF WENDELL MASSACHUSETTS 01379

TOWN HALL 508 544 3395

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Wendell School Committee, and the Wendell Finance Committee, are both looking for new members to fill vacancies. These are important jobs that require a lot of energy, especially over the coming months, but the only requirements are living in Wendell and interest in the job. Please call Zenya Wild, School Committee, at 544-7243, or Dan Keller, Finance Committee, at 544-2857. Thanks!

PUBLIC FORUM
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17th
TOWN HALL

On December 17th, the Wendell Selectboard will host an open public forum for representatives of Lake Grove Maple Valley to respond to citizens questions about the school's programs.

All interested parties are invited to attend the forum which will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Wendell Town Hall.

ARTS LOTTERY COUNCIL
WINTER FUNDING CYCLE

The Wendell Arts Lottery Council (WALC) is now accepting applications for the Winter Funding Cycle. The Massachusetts Cultural Council has announced that this will be the only funding cycle for this fiscal year 1992.

Individuals and organizations may apply for grants to help fund arts projects that are of benefit to the community. Performing Arts Student Series (PASS) applications are also being accepted. The deadline for both applications is January 3, 1992.

The application forms with instructions are now available at the Wendell Library and the Wendell Post Office or by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to WALC, c/o Ina Phelps, P.O. Box 122, Wendell, MA 01379. Return the completed forms by mail to WALC at the above P.O. Box address or deliver them personally to the Wendell New Town Offices, addressed to WALC, Attention: Janice Barrett from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, by January 3, 1992 at the latest.

Ina Phelps

HELP WANTED

BUILDING INSPECTOR

The Town of Wendell Selectboard seeks a qualified individual to serve as the Town's Building Inspector. For additional information or to express your interest in this position call the Selectboard Office at 544-3395 or Assistant Building Inspector Bud Davis at 544-7290. December 10th is the deadline for applications.

Assessor's Update

Bills for Fiscal year 1991 went out in October with a new tax rate of $17.75 per thousand assessed value. Most properties in Wendell doubled in valuation because the land prices for 3 acre house sites and corresponding acreage went up in conjunction with 1988-90 sales in Wendell.

Many Wendellites, though warned, were shocked when they received the official numbers on their tax bills.

Again let me state that actual rises in taxes to be collected went up because of the budget voted at Town Meeting May 1990, not because of higher assessment. Also because the first half year's taxes for fiscal 1991 were estimated from the previous year's budget.

Many applications for abatement were made, and when legitimate errors or misjudgements had been made, abatement on the tax bills were granted. The time period for making application was up on October 24th.

The next tax bill will be based on the same valuation of property and real estate, but will be based on the budget voted in May 1991. The increase will be minimal.

Susan Dunlany

New Assistant Town Moderator

Jonathan von Ranson has been appointed to a new post, Assistant Town Moderator. The Selectboard received the appointment notice in time for Jonathan to serve in this capacity at a recent Special Town Meeting. Moderator, Kathy Becker, decided to make this appointment after the originally scheduled meeting was adjourned due to lack of quorum. Frequent lack of quorums cause meetings to be changed to new nights for another try on relatively short notice, causing the Moderator to take steps to insure that the meeting would be covered. Another more usual option is to have the Chairperson of the Selectboard serve as Moderator, or to elect an pro tempore Moderator from the floor. Wendell's precedent has come to be that the Moderator select a replacement. Says Moderator Becker, "Jonathan has a similar vision on the meeting, the importance of feeling safe, and protection of individual rights. It doesn't matter what a Moderator's politics are, the Moderator must not try to influence people in this area. It seems logical, in light of his interest and skill at it, to have him as my consistent backup for the rest of this term so that people will know what to expect."

Moderator Becker is advocating consideration of a reduction in the number of voters required to make up a quorum as a warrant item at the next Annual Town Meeting.

Minutes

Wendell Selectboard Meeting
September 3, 1991

Meeting Convened at 7:00 pm/All Board members present
Minutes read and approved/Correspondence reviewed/Warrants signed

The Wendell Information and Referral Organization has been established and has helped at least 6 persons thus far. All inquiries are strictly confidential. An article is being prepared for the Wendell Post.

The Board agreed to renew the contract for the town copier machine.
(GMA Fidelity Bond insures for $10,000. at a cost of $50.00.)

There is a need for heaters for the Town Hall stage and kitchen. The cost is estimated at about $1000.00. Board members will check with the administrators of the Full Moon Coffee House for assistance in funding this project.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

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Selectboard Meeting/September 10, 1991 - Minutes
Meeting convened at 7:00pm/ Members present,Anne Zak, Margo Culley, Ted Lewis.
Minutes read and approved/Correspondence reviewed/Warrants signed

Deferred Teachers' Fund - Board members voted to place an article on the Town Meeting agenda to transfer D P money into the Stabilization Fund to cover this cost.

A report of missing domestic cats was made to Board members - natural predators such as foxes and fisher cats are suspected culprits. The fear they were being picked up for laboratory research is unfounded.

A fund raiser is being planned by the citizens of Wendell to supplement the school fund. Their goal is to raise $20,000.

The Finance Committee met with the Board to discuss the need to raise $30,000 (Wendell's share) to repair the roof of the Swift River School. The insurance company will not pay for this,however, the original contractor may be responsible.

Selectwoman,Margo Culley, reported on the Recontek meeting she attended. Attorney Dean Cycon was nominated as the representative of the Local Assessment Committee of the abutting towns. Pat Zak was nominated as the alternative rep. If the site proves to be a ZoneII aquifer the plan will be cancelled.

The cemetery must be surveyed and 2 new lots must be appraised.

Kathleen Ramsey will write a stern letter to all Town Department Heads reminding them bills will not be paid if purchase orders are not used.

Board voted to allow all employees presently covered under group health insurance to pick up dental coverage to be paid for by themselves.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Need a hospital?
You don't have to go to Northampton or Greenfield. If you dismiss the Athol Memorial Hospital out of hand, you're missing out on a chance to utilize and support a vital community institution, where quality health care is provided by dedicated employees. And consider this: for most residents of Wendell, Athol Memorial is the nearest hospital.

Need a doctor?
You don't have to go to Amherst, Northampton or Greenfield. Find out about MDs practicing in Athol and Orange, including specialists in many fields who conduct regular clinics in the AMH Medical Arts Building. Call Allen Young, director of public relations, 249-3511, Ext. 143.

Athol Memorial Hospital

Selectboard Special Meeting
September 15, 1991
Minutes

Present - All Selectboard Members, Everett Ricketts, Edward Farmer, Daniel Bacigalupo, Michael Anderson, and James Hebert

This meeting was called by the members of the Selectboard to discuss with members of the police force, fire department and road commission ways and means to a better communication system for the town especially during an emergency. During the most recent storm Hurricane "Bob" it was discovered the generator at the new fire station had not been connected. The space in the fire house could have housed about 100 people if there was such a need during that storm and if the generator was in working condition.
Everett Ricketts had contacted the electrician who was responsible for this task but the electrician failed to arrive on the appointed date.
The Board requested Kathleen Ramsey write to the electrician and request this job be completed.
It was suggested the Board seek volunteers to build a small building outside the fire station to house the gas generator. The law requires it not be in the same space as the heating system.
Board members would like to see Wendell have a central dispatch system to better handle communication in all emergencies.
The use of more radios and remotes for homes, cars and perhaps the Town Hall was discussed.
A follow-up meeting was scheduled for Sunday October 20, 1991 at 10:00am to be held in the new fire station.
A request was made for each department to submit a written inventory list so that the Selectboard may anticipate the needs of each department. It was also suggested these lists be computerized for the use of future Selectboard members.
A discussion regarding designated spots in the state forest where fires are allowed followed. It was agreed the state should furnish a list of designated areas and should supply those areas with sand and/or water barrels.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am

Wendell Selectboard Meeting - Sept. 17,1991 - Minutes
Meeting convened at 7:00pm/All Board members present
Correspondence reviewed/Warrants signed

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Window quilt bids for Town offices were reviewed. Jeff Passo from "Window Quilts" quoted a price of $5000.00.

Renaissance Window will check on window size before offering their bid. Ms. Ramsey will check on the Senior Center Block Grant for next year for windows on that side of building.

Mr. Ray Gentil attended the meeting re: clean-up of oil spillage on his pond.

Speed control - Police report speeding has been kept at a minimum.

Sick leave - All town employees will be notified they must take sick leave before end of the year or they will lose it.

Generator hook-up - Danny B. received a bid for $500.00 from Jay Blackbird. Mr. Blackbird will contact Kathleen Ramsey with a quote for the electrical work connected with the grease trap.

Planning Board - Joe Diemond resigned from the Planning Board. Peter Rooney is interested in becoming his replacement.

Fin Com met with the Board to discuss warrants for the Special Town Meeting in October.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting - September 24, 1991 - Minutes
Meeting convened at 7:00pm/Board members Anne Zak and Margo Culley were present - Correspondence reviewed/warrants signed

Board members decided to invite Maple Valley administrators to a meeting to discuss their plans for expansion etc.

Board members voted unanimously to reject the teachers' salary deferral. Kathleen Ramsey will complete the form and return it to Mr. Lubinsky.

Elizabeth Crawford reported on the Union # 28 meeting as regards the K through 12 Regionalization. Union # 28 dropped the topic from their agenda due to lack of information.

Anne Zak plans to attend the Mahar School open house on Oct. 1, 1991.

Anne Diemond attended the meeting in place of Jonathan Von Ranson re: Harvest Day plans. Four requests made by Ms. Diemond were:
Permission to hang a banner in the center of the common.
Permission to close off the street near the Town Hall with booths; but leaving access to the ramp.
Permission to use all town buildings in case of rain.
Permission to park cars, with an attendant, in back of the Town Offices and the Old Town Garage.
The Selectboard members agreed to all requests and voted to donate another $25.00 to the Harvest Festival.

The Board decided to cancel their meetings on Dec. 24th and 31st but will meet to sign the warrants on Dec. 30,1991.

508 249-4617 FREE ESTIMATES
Masonry by Scott Chase
STONE, BLOCK AND BRICK WORK

MINUTES

Fin Com, Dan Keller, Elizabeth Crawford and Ken Holmberg met with the Board to discuss the warrants for the Special Town Meeting. Dan and Elizabeth suggested the needed monies be taken from the stabilization fund rather than raise and appropriate.

Swift River School roof - the joining seam between the old and new roofs is causing the leak. This seam can be fixed by the builder at a cost of $1000.00. The question of whether or not the old roof can wait for replacement until May,1992 was discussed. The Board decided to ask Anne Perkins and Bud Davis to check it out especially in regards to danger to occupants of the building and give a report. Postponement until May may effect the reimbursement schedule. The reimbursement schedule cannot be finalized until the town agrees and a price is set.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Wendell Selectboard Meeting - October 1, 1991 - Minutes

Meeting convened at 7:00 pm/All Board members present

Linda Pirog requested and received a copy of the Kupper report.

The Finance Committee met with the Board to discuss warrant articles for the Special Town Meeting. The Warrant will be posted on Monday, October 7, 1991.

The Board reviewed the bids for window quilts for the Town Offices. The proposal from Home Comfort stated a cost of $2,026.20 for the 10 windows on the office side of the building. The amount of money still available from the Furniture Fund is $1235.90. The Board decided to use plastic covering for this year and to seek volunteers from that list to install it. The Fire Department will be consulted re: regulations regarding plastic window coverings in public buildings before any action is taken.

Fin Com sought the aid of the Selectboard in finding a replacement for Randy Kness, one of their members who recently resigned. The remaining committee members are: Dan Keller, Elizabeth Crawford, Ken Holmberg, and Ed Boland.

The Board voted unanimously to appoint Peter Rooney a member of the Planning Board to replace Joe Diemond who resigned.

The Board agreed to make a motion at the Special Town Meeting requesting permission to appoint a committee of 5 to do the street numbering. It was decided one member from the Police Dept., one from the Fire Dept., one from the Planning Board and two citizens at large would be appropriate.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Selectboard Meeting Minutes - October 8, 1991

Board members Anne Zak and Ted Lewis present

Meeting convened at 7:00pm/Minutes accepted/Correspondence reviewed.

The Board responded to the Kupper letter of 9/25/91.

A decision was made to continue renting the Town water heater despite the slightly higher cost since the contract covers repairs on it.

Town Office window quilt quotes were discussed. It was decided the high cost prohibits such a purchase at this time. The Board discussed the use of plastic coverings at the windows to keep the fuel cost down for this winter.

Ken Holmberg offered his services as the Franklin County Technical School Budget Representative.

The $10,000. GMA Bond was signed.

It was reported the new highway dump truck will be delivered sometime in November. All Highway members took the CDL Test.

Upcoming meetings:

Thursday, November 7, 1991, 7:00pm - Recontek meeting at New Salem Town Hall

Sunday, October 20,1991, 10:00am - First Responders Meeting at the Fire Station

Tuesday, October 20, 1991, 7:00pm Special Town Meeting

Tuesday, October 29, 1991 7:00pm - Representative from Lake Grove Maple Valley will attend the Selectboard meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

Wendell Selectboard Meeting Minutes - October 15, 1991

Meeting convened at 7:00pm/Members present,Anne Zak, Margo Culley, Ted Lewis.

- Kerry Verney attended meeting with a request to hang tiles made by Town children, depicting aspects of earth preservation, in the Town Hall. The Board suggested she bring it to the Special Town Meeting.

Jake Graton requested the Board's permission to rent the old fire house as an artist's studio. Board members concerned re: insurance coverage etc. They will look into the matter and Mr. Graton will return to another meeting for an answer.

Nancy Graton and Rosalie Rosser attended the meeting with a request for a food storage and distribution center. Both women volunteer at the Turners Falls Survival Center. Ms. Graton will speak to the Council on Aging re: the use of the Senior Center as the distribution center.

Finance Committee Report - The heater for the stage at the Town Hall may cost $5oo. rather than the original estimate of $1,000. Lee Trousdale will be appointed as a member of the Finance Committee.

Anne Diemond passed the test and has been appointed to the Wendell Police Force as an officer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Wendell Selectboard Meeting Minutes Sun. Oct. 20, 1991

First Responders Meeting at Wendell Fire Station

Those present: Ted Lewis, Margo Culley, Ed Chase, Ed Farmer, Harry Williston, David Walsh, and E. Scully.

A discussion of Chapter 291 re: 911 calls and the absence of 24 hour monitoring service for Wendell took place. It was decided to check into the feasibility of joining with other local towns such as Orange or Athol.

It was agreed by the representatives of the Police, Fire and Road Departments that the lack of communication during an emergency such as the recent storm "Bob" is a definite problem for Wendell. The approximate cost of $5000. for a base radio with speakers which would alleviate the problem is not affordable at present. It was suggested the Town advertise our need and perhaps buy a system from another town which might be upgrading theirs.

Ed Farmer said the generator at the Fire Station will be connected on Mon. Oct. 21, 1991.

It was decided a driving course should be set up so that all volunteers would have a class I or class II license before driving the fire trucks. The insurance covers those people driving to an emergency whether or not they have a special license but not on the return trip nor for a drill or a parade.

Police Chief needs keys to all gated and locked roads in the town.

Gentile Pond spillage - Insurance will reimburse Mr. Gentile for the cost of the clean-up. In future the Board of Health will notify the state before taking any action other than using Speed Dry for oil spills and or evacuation for other hazardous waste such as chlorine.

David Walsh suggested First Responders take a course in hazardous waste control. He said there are hazardous waste suits, masks and gloves made of plastic that cost only about $10.00 each.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am

Respectfully submitted
Elizabeth Scully
Selectboard Clerk

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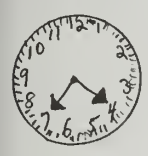


CONTINUED

Selectboard Meeting 10/29/91 Minutes
Meeting convened at 7:00pm
Board members present: Margo Culley, Ted Lewis, Anne Zak
Correspondence reviewed.
Representatives from Lake Grove Maple Valley who attended the meeting were: Gary Grant, Claude Battrenburg, and Albert A. Brayson II
Also present were interested citizens: Richard Drohen, Robert Pennell, Jake Graton, Tom Mangan, Jean Forward, Christine Heard, Anne Diemand and Zenya Wild.

Selectman, Ted Lewis welcomed the staff of LGMV and requested they answer some questions re: changes and future expansion plans for the school. The Selectboard had prepared a questionnaire from a list of concerns of Wendell residents and mailed a copy to the school staff in advance of this meeting.

Mr. Battrenburg gave an interesting but rather lengthy history of the school since its inception in 1971.

Due to time constraints of the planned agenda of the meeting, Ms. Culley requested Mr. Battrenburg to respond to the citizens' concerns regarding future plans for the school and hold the schools historical background for a possible larger forum to be held at the Town Hall at a future date.

Ms. Zak spoke then and told Mr. Battrenburg it was the hope of the Board to continue to enjoy the good rapport the school and the Town have had in the past. Open communication has diminished recently and citizens forced to rely on rumors prompted a request for this meeting.

Some answers to specific questions put to the School representatives were:
...There are presently 27 students in residence.
...There are now 36 beds.
...Ultimately they expect to add facilities at their present locatior to house another 17 students.
...The school receives referrals three ways. They are:
Through Social Services, Through the courts (Juvenile Delinquents), and through public school referrals.
...There are presently 12 adjudicated sex offenders attending M.V.
...Maple Valley is an educational institution and not a psychiatric facility.
...The reason for expansion is the need for a rate increase from the state, (a broader base equals more capital).
...Plans for a school house and a gymnasium to be built at the school's present site are in the offing.
...LGMV,Inc. has dropped all plans to buy the Sogarde property.
...Recent lay-offs have been from the administration staff only.
...There have been no changes in campus security either day or night.
...The school hires 3 clinical personnel members who work 5 days a week.

Richard Drohen, a former employee of Maple Valley, said according to his experience, most of the students were in need of clinical services.

Stephen Gross, Wendell Planning Board Representative, said they had not yet come to a decision regarding Maple Valley's status as either a school or a residential treatment center.

This portion of the meeting was held in the Senior Center due to the number of people in attendance. The meeting continued in the Selectboard Office.

Pole Hearing - Matt Hurley,N.E. Telephone representative, there is a need for a taller and brighter light near the Farley Bridge. The present one was set in 1929. There being no objections, this information will be passed on to Annie Hardjens, Wendell Town Clerk.

Fire Station Rental - Mr. Graton asked to rent the Old Fire Station as an artist studio. The Board will look into insurance liability and plumbing needs for rental property. If town property were to be rented, the Board explained, it must be advertised and bid upon.

Ted Lewis reported it will take 80 gallons of paint to cover all of the Town buildings with two coats of paint.

Rush Road Discontinuance - Realtor Connie Stewart from Athol must speak to the Zoning Board for a variance in order to use this parcel as a building lot.

Franklin County Medical Emergency Fund - It is hoped the Town of Wendell may receive some funding for CPR or Class II licensing training. Also, both Cathy Becker and Ed Chase, the town's only EMT's, were unable to renew their licenses because the cost became prohibitive.

Extension of law enforcement liability - The Board voted to accept this insurance and pay the $100.00.

It was decided Cheryl Perkins should contact Carmen Buell re: the Sunday Blue Laws which control the sale of liquor on Sunday.
Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

Wendell Selectboard Meeting Nov. 5, 1991 - Minutes
Meeting convened at 6:30 pm Members present: Anne Zak, Margo Culley, Ted Lewis. Signed warrants/reviewed correspondence
Board then recessed to attend a special town meeting at the Town Hall.
Reconvened at 8:15pm/ members present: Margo Culley, Anne Zak, Ted Lewis.
Also present was Floyd Borakove who attended the meeting to discuss the interest charged on delinquent real estate taxes. Although the Board agreed with Mr. Borakove that 14% is a high rate of interest, they explained it was set by the State (probably deliberately high as a disincentive to pay other bills before taxes). Mr. Borakove proposed that the Town of Wendell charge the 14% interest as mandated by the state and after determining the cost of administrating a program which would rebate the difference between the 14% and the actual cost of borrowing funds to cover delinquent taxes. The remaining difference would go into a fund to be either given to the homeowner or applied to the principal or remain in the fund to help those in need. Judith Wilder, Wendell Tax Collector, when asked, said State law prohibits tax discounts and that such a fund could not be set up through taxation.
Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

SENIOR CENTER NEWS

The Wendell Council on Aging has been very busy the last two months.

On October 2nd the regular monthly Blood Pressure Screening was held at the Senior Center with Tom Thompson of Community health Services of Athol in Charge. Sixteen people were served.

With the coming of winter people are anxious to escape winter illness. The flu clinic was held October 2nd. The vaccine was administered by Tom Thompson R.N.. Fifteen people were served.

On November 6th the regular November Blood Pressure Screening took place with Tom Thompson. Sixteen people were served.

The foliage season this year was gorgeous. The Seniors who went on shopping trips really had a treat. After buying their grocery supply, they went up to Davenport's Sugar House. The scenery was gorgeous, a display of autumnal brilliance. If you haven't been there go next year. Turn right at the Shelburne Church and go up and up. Nature in all its glory awaits you!

Do You Need Help?
- If you live on limited income.
- If you become ill.
- If you are unable to care for yourself.

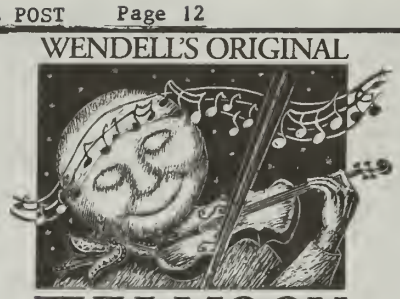
Nancy Graton will be informing us of programs availible, where to apply for help and what to expect when you do apply. Watch for upcoming announcements.

Wendell Council on Aging

NOTE: * The Wendell Country Store provides free grocery delivery to senior citizens. Call before noon for same day delivery.

Also a reminder that Wednesday is 10% discount day for senior citizens.

Call 544-8646.



Speaking of next shows, December's Coffeehouse will include "Wendell's Own Home Grown," local talent who will perform to benefit the Coffeehouse operations and Town Hall building fund. As you may know, each month's proceeds from the donations of admissions to the non-profit Full Moon Coffeehouse goes only to the performer and to an organization in need of support, as well as a small amount to cover overhead. Organizations who have benefited from your donations have been The Meeting House, NELCWIT, Millers River Preservation, and many others. If you represent an organization that would like to be a beneficiary, or if you know of one that could use support, contact

Myron Becker, 544-2086, for more information.

Other shows planned this year include:

Orrin Star (January 18) - an incredible guitarist and stand-up comedian (see him occasionally at Peking Garden on comedy night!);

Suzi Polluci and Company (February 15) - a post-Valentine's Day happening;

The Bruce Mackay Band (March 14) - a great dance event;

Goddess Gospel (April 16) - an eight women a cappella chorus.

If you know of performers who would like to play at the Coffeehouse, let us know! We are especially interested in having culturally diverse performers contact us. Also, don't forget about open mike which begins each Coffeehouse, starting at 7:30, as well as the amazing "Dessert-O-Rama" - our bake sale extravaganza.

So, give me a call regarding information about anything to do with the Full Moon Coffeehouse, and if you wish to buy a new T-shirt and mug (my number is 544-7849). See you December 21!

Michael Bloomfield

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Performing Arts Update

Doug Tanner

Rick Ledford & Nexus have recently completed a wonderful new tape, "Swift River Lullaby". It is truly a local accomplishment; recorded at the Wendell Recording Studio and featuring the contributions of Rick and nine other local musicians.

All of the songs were written by Rick Ledford. Two of them, "Swift River Lullaby" and "Good Folks of Boston" were inspired by Rick's Grandparents, Frank and Doris Spooner, who were evicted from their home in North Dana when the Quabbin Reservoir was created. In his youth, Rick often spent summers with his Grandparents (who by then were living in Petersham). He remembers the stories his grandfather told about life in the Quabbin towns and silent moments spent at the waters edge, only a short distance from where their now submerged homestead had been.

Apparently, and for good reason, Rick's grandfather was quite bitter about the loss of his home, and that plus the writing of J.R. Greene of Athol (The Day Four Towns Died) influenced Rick when he wrote "Good Folks of Boston". An upbeat, bluegrass sort of tune, it speaks romantically of the farewell ball in Enfield; attended by people from far and near, no one with a dry eye as the town died at midnight; and also of the politicians in Boston who were responsible for taking the valley from those who called it home.

The other three tunes on this tape are just as good as the Quabbin tunes. The whole tape makes good listening and I highly recommend it - although I am a little prejudiced, since I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to play mandolin and fiddle on the tape (and I had a great time doing it). The others involved are: Jim Rivers (background vocals), Bob Rosser (lead guitar), Lefty Cullen (bass guitar), Mike Reynolds (banjo and acoustic guitar), Ted Cetto (piano), Murphy (percussion), Gary Amadon (background vocals), and Rick King (sound engineer).

Rick Ledford and his band, Nexus, will be playing at: Hooligans in Athol on Dec. 27 and 28; Twister's in Amherst on Jan. 11; The Moles Eye in Brattleboro on Feb. 1; The Charlemont Inn on Feb. 7. They hope to make appearances in Greenfield and Wendell in the future.

If you would like to purchase Rick's tape, it is offered for sale at many local stores (including the Wendell Country Store), or you can write Rick Ledford, P.O. box 97, Orange MA, 01364. Mail order, It is $7.00.

Christmas Concert

Carols & Works by Josquin des Pres Palestrina, Poulenc, and Pachelbel. Fri. Dec. 6 @ 8 pm St. Patrick's Church Northfield. Sun. Dec. 8 @ 4 pm St. Stanislaus Shurch S. Deerfield. Tickets $4 413-498-5064.

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OPENING GRATON/ELLIS

Wendell artist Bob Ellis and Jake Graton will open an exhibit of their watercolor paintings at the Book Mill in Montague on Sunday afternoon, December 1, 1991.

Ellis, a well-known naturalist and published artist, has been painting wildlife all his life, progressing from staightforward portraits of birds and animals to pictures revealing interactions between the land and the creatures it brings forth. Graton brings a fresh, vital approach to portraits of neighbors and friends, colorful statements in which the subjects make statements of their own.

Located in a scenic gorge of the Sawmill River, the Book Mill is a large handsomely renovated mill building offering unlimited browsing and a comfortable cafe to book lovers all over New England.

The opening reception, with music by Doug Tanner and Michael Bloomfield, will begin at 1:00 PM Sunday, December 1, 1991. The show will continue for viewing after this date.

MEETING HOUSE

Come one come all to "The Wendell Meeting House!!" The building is available to meet for classes of all kinds, dance, art, spiritual gatherings and more. Our hopes and expectations are to create a community center for those who need a place to go. The rent is reasonable and we're working on rest room facilities. We invite people to join "The Friends of the Meeting House", committee. We need folks to bake for bake sales and to help do carpentry work and make posters. In general to come to classes and give classes! Mez and Gail are the new co-directors and are currently helping other artists to establish classes. Gail has several fimo clay classes going on and Mez in between classes at Antioch is doing a Sunday spiritual circle and craft gathering. (This enables folks who wish to work on their own projects from home to come together with others and work together for a meager donation of $2 -).

Currently there are quite a few programs happening, but there is a need for more classes. There are plenty of time slots available.... So if you're in the market for a place to teach or a place to go to make things, give us a call! Call Gail @ 544-6362 if you'd like a copy of the schedule. We welcome folks to connect any time. Thanks for your support!!

BOB ELLIS
Watercolors

P.O. Box 91
Wendell, MA 01379

413-659-3512